

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

March 2002



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development

## Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Increase in Nine of Area's Ten Counties During February

Only one of the area's ten counties unemployment rate did not increase this February from last February's levels. This was Florence County which was at 10.6 percent. Over the month, all ten counties in the region had increases. This is not unusual for the area, as January and February typically

have the highest unemployment levels during the calendar year. Some of the rates are at or above levels experienced during the last recession in 1991 for the month of February. If seasonal patterns follow suit, unemployment rates will most likely decline, but remain at or near year ago levels during the next few months, and employment levels should begin to improve on a seasonal basis. This should lead us into the

period when the economic recovery begins to make some positive impact on employment levels in the region.

The February unemployment rate for the Bay Area increased to 7.2 percent. This was an increase of 2.4 of a percentage point over the month and 1.8 of a percentage point from last year. Unemployment in the area remained above Wisconsin's unadjusted rate which was 6.7 percent. The rate for Wisconsin rose 2.3 of a percentage point during the month and was 1.3 of a percentage point above last year. Eight of the area's counties had rates above the State of Wisconsin's unadjusted rate.

The number of unemployed in the Bay Area increased by over 8,600 from January. This is a combination of seasonal patterns for the area being aggravated by the economy that is just coming out of a recession. Unfortunately, the recovery normally lags in areas with above average manufacturing such as the State of Wisconsin, and is also occurring at the slowest employment period of the year. Unlike January, where there was an increase in the number of employed in the region, this did not occur from January to February. The

number employed declined over the month by 300. This brought the number of employed down to 318,900. The number employed however, did remain above one year ago by 6,100. However the increase in employment over the year did not keep up with the number of workers entering

the labor force during that time. Both employment and labor force levels remained above last year's levels in the region, indicating continued growth. During the last twelve months the labor force increased 13,100, with employment rising 6,100, leaving 7,000 of the new entrants to the labor force unemployed. Approximately 45 percent of the employment growth occurred in the Green Bay MSA which increased

2,700. The only county that had a decrease in total employment over the year was Menominee with a loss of 100.

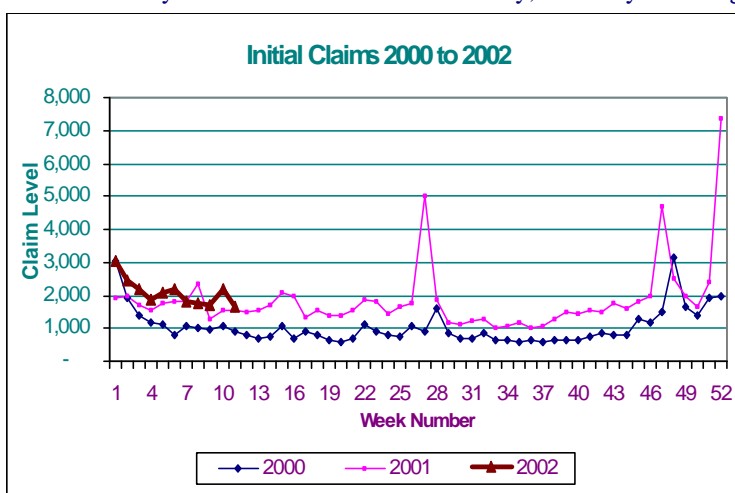
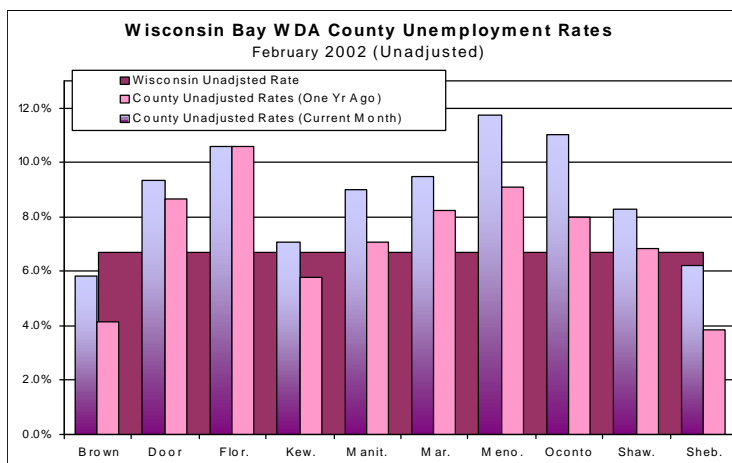
Like January, February has a high number of unemployment

claims. Although the number of claims has dropped from early January, they still remain above last year, and remain well above levels from two years ago, which would be the last year prior to the current recession.

Improvement in the area's economy and employment levels are dependant on the recovery of employment in the manufacturing sector. The timing on

this is hard to predict as it normally lags the recovery in other sectors. Manufacturing employment in the Bay Area has lost 2,800 jobs over the last twelve months, a decline of 3.3 percent. Wisconsin's manufacturing employment during the same time has lost 29,600. Currently there are 83,200 workers in the Bay area are employed in the manufacturing sector.

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## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Both the Green Bay MSA and the Sheboygan MSA experienced increases in their seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the month of February. The rate in the Green Bay MSA was 4.9 percent, up 0.4 of a percentage point.

The rate for the Sheboygan MSA was 5.4 percent, up 0.7 of a

percentage point. The nation's unemployment rate declined 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.5 percent, while the rate for the State of Wisconsin increased 0.6 of a percentage point to 5.8 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
February 2002	Brown	Door	Flornc.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	143,100	15,000	1,800	10,700	47,100	22,500	2,300	17,500	20,200	63,600	343,800	3,050,100
Employed	134,700	13,600	1,600	9,900	42,900	20,300	2,000	15,600	18,600	59,600	318,900	2,846,100
Unemployed	8,300	1,400	200	800	4,200	2,100	300	1,900	1,700	3,900	24,800	204,000
Unemployment rate(%)	5.8%	9.3%	10.6%	7.1%	9.0%	9.5%	11.7%	11.0%	8.3%	6.2%	7.2%	6.7%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	145,400	12,100	1,100	6,600	37,700	19,800	1,900	10,000	12,100	60,500	307,300	2,758,700
Construction & Mining	7,900	800	0	400	1,300	400	0	400	400	2,200	13,900	105,700
Manufacturing	27,700	2,500	200	2,100	13,700	6,500	0	3,300	2,400	24,800	83,200	565,700
Transportation & Public Util.	10,800	200	0	400	2,200	1,000	0	400	500	1,700	17,200	129,400
Wholesale Trade	7,600	200	0	200	1,000	600	0	100	400	1,900	12,000	135,300
Retail Trade	25,400	2,600	300	1,000	5,900	3,400	100	1,700	2,400	8,800	51,600	485,000
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,700	700	0	300	1,000	600	0	200	400	2,000	15,800	150,800
Services	37,600	3,200	100	1,200	8,200	5,000	0	1,900	2,700	12,500	72,400	765,200
Government	17,700	1,700	300	1,000	4,500	2,400	1,800	2,000	2,900	6,700	41,200	421,500
<b>Change from previous month</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	3,300	0	0	100	1,900	700	0	600	200	1,400	8,300	68,900
Employed	500	-400	-100	-200	200	100	0	0	-300	-100	-300	-3,000
Unemployed	2,900	400	100	300	1,600	600	0	600	500	1,500	8,600	71,900
Unemployment rate(%)	1.9%	2.9%	4.7%	2.9%	3.2%	2.7%	0.5%	3.1%	2.6%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	-200	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300	-600	6,300
Construction & Mining	-200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200	-2,200
Manufacturing	-100	0	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	-100	-100	-2,100
Transportation & Public Util.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-400
Wholesale Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-300
Retail Trade	-500	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300	-1,000	-5,900
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-100
Services	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	5,200
Government	400	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	100	600	12,200
<b>Change from year ago</b>												
<b>Civilian Labor Force*</b>	5,300	600	100	300	2,500	1,100	0	1,400	700	400	13,100	93,400
Employed	2,700	500	100	200	1,400	700	-100	800	300	700	6,100	47,600
Unemployed	2,600	200	0	200	1,100	400	100	600	300	300	7,000	45,800
Unemployment rate(%)	1.7%	0.6%	0.0%	1.3%	1.9%	1.3%	2.6%	3.0%	1.4%	2.3%	1.8%	1.3%
<b>Total, all industries**</b>	400	200	100	-100	400	300	-100	200	-200	-1,600	-400	-19,200
Construction & Mining	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-300	500	-3,400
Manufacturing	-1,300	-100	0	-100	100	-100	0	-100	0	-1,200	-2,800	-29,600
Transportation & Public Util.	200	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	400	-2,700
Wholesale Trade	0	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-400
Retail Trade	300	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	0	700	1,900
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-300	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-200	2,800
Services	600	100	0	0	100	200	0	100	-100	-300	700	8,200
Government	100	100	0	-100	-100	100	-100	200	0	100	300	3,800

\* Includes participants residing in area. \*\* Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2001

Going to be needing Summer Workers? Contact your local Job Center and list your openings on Jobnet and the Internet. This free service has a special Seasonal/Summer category to help you find the right person. Call our local office or enter your job listing on the internet at: <https://dws.dwd.state.wi.us/dwewjos/employer>.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

Direct questions and comments to: **Richard Seidemann, Regional Labor Market Analyst**, Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081 920-208-5809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: [seider@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:seider@dwd.state.wi.us)